Message Proclaimed.

BY DIVINE

AUTHORITY.

From the choſen Aſſembly of the redeemed people in *England*, To the Pope (chief Biſhop) of *Rome*, and to his Cardinals, Jeſuits, and Prieſts, and all other the Officers of the Romiſh Church, where it ſhall meet with them through the world: That they may appear, and come forth to triall, and ſhew if they have the ſame Faith, Power, Spirit, and Authoritie, and Government, as had the Apoſtles and true Churches, before the Apoſtacie: And this is a full Invitation and Challenge to the whole Church of *Rome*, and the beginning of controverſie with her, for the perfect manifeſtation of the long hidden Truth; betwixt them that are in the Truth it ſelf, and ſuch as have the form, but not the power; that all things may be brought to light and true judgement.

Written by an Embaſſador for the true and living God, *E. B.* [illegible]

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This to be delivered to the Chief Bishop of Rome, *or to his Secretary.*

From the Elect and gathered Assembly of the choſen people in the Nation of *England*, called in deriſion, and known amongſt all falſe Sects by the name of QUAKERS; and by a Servant of the great God of Heaven and Earth, and a Member of that people, this is written.

To the Pope (Chief Biſhop) and his Cardinals at Rome, *and to his Biſhops, Jeſuits, and Prieſts there, and elſe-where, thorough the Dominions of the Romiſh Church, ſcattered abroad in the Nations.*

WHereas we a poor, deſpiſed, and rejected people, among the Nations of the earth, yet dreadful and mighty, becauſe the Majeſtie and Preſence of the Lord God is with us, who hath called us, and choſen us, and gathered us, and redeemed us from among men, out of kindreds, and multitudes, and peoples, into one body, and one ſpirit, out of all the Sects upon the earth; and we are of one mind, and one ſoul, having fellowſhip with the Son, and with the Father, being come through great tribulations, and many fierie trials, and are refined, and purified, and made clean and white in the bloud of the Lamb, being fully recovered out of the great deluge of darkneſſe, and Apoſtacie, which hath overflown and drowned the whole world, and all nations, ſince the daies of the true Churches, and holy Apoſtles: And know ye, that we are none of all the many Sects, nor of the divers waies, and formal worſhippers, that are but in the imitations faigned, of what the Saints of old ſpoke and performed, in the Power and Spirit of God, which hath been ſpoken and practiſed by all the divers Sects and falſe Churches, with-

out the Spirit, Power, and Life, that was in the Apostles; so that all Religion hath been, and the profession and practise thereof, for many Ages, but as the floating of a broken vessel upon the waters, driven with the several winds, wanting Anchor, and skilful Mariners; which hath not carried to perfect Rest, the hope of Eternal life: But know ye, that now at last, through our long and wearied travels, and after all our tedious seekings, and our zealous practises and profession in Christianitie performed by us, while darkness covered us, and the earth; hath the Lord set us safe upon the Rock Christ Jesus, upon whom the Church of Christ firmly standeth, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against; and he hath made our habitation sure upon the Mountain of his house, which is established upon the top of all mountains, whereunto we now are gathered, and rest in a certain hope and tried confidence, and doth view the whole world, and the face of all mankind, and measureth the times and seasons thoroughout Generations; and the state of the Church we perfectly know, by the inspiration of the Almightie, her estate before the Apostles daies, and in the Apostles daies, and since the Apostles daies, and her increase, and decrease, and estate, since the beginning of the world till now, and at this present time, to us is certainlie known, by the Spirit of Jesus, and the light of the Lamb, which now is risen upon our Mountain, and shines in our habitations: And first we certifie you, as for the many false Sects and Churches (so called) and many of the divers worshippers, and separated forms of Churches, risen up since the Apostles daies, from the least of them to the greatest, we have searched and examined, and are not fully satisfied (but rather the contrarie) that they are perfectly found in the Faith, but rather degenerated, from the Power, Spirit, and Life that was in the Apostles, and among the true Churches before the Apostacie; and we have sought out their first original and root, and we find they fall short of the true Church and the Apostles; first in respect of time, many Generations; and also in

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respect of life, and power, and puritie, and they want the Spirit, and dominion, and government, that the true Churches and Apostles possessed; and we certainly believe, they are many of them come up, and risen in a dark night, long since the daies of the Apostles, while the Sun was yet unrisen, and while the mountains of ignorance, blindnesse, and wickednes covered the face of the earth, and the clouds of darknesse remained upon the face of the whole heavens; and while yet the man-child remains in God, being caught up to him, and the woman lodged in the desolate wilderneſſe, being thither fled because of the great red Dragon: And we believe not, that any of them are the Lambs Wife, lawfully joyned to him, neither are they the Virgin, in which there is no spot; nor the Spouse, truly in election to Christ the Bridegroom; for we have had controverſie with them this divers years, and weighed them, and measured them in the ballance of equitie, and they appear to us, not to be of a true descent from that Vine, into which the true Church was planted; but their original may be of a latter race: And to say no more of them, we certainly know they are foully spotted, and hath not the favour, nor parts, nor garments of a Virgin; and Christ the Bridegroom they have deeply wronged, for many falſe Sects have risen out of the great Whore, the mother of Harlots, who hath been in open and secret fornication, ever since the daies of the Apostles, and such are her off-spring, and not of the true Seed, elect, which is heir by right, of the inheritance of life eternal, the Kingdom which hath no end.

And for as much as the Church of *Rome* hath openly pleaded, as we have heard, and some of your Members also to our faces, that she is indeed the true Church, and she alone, and none besides, and that you can fetch your original by line truly from the Apostles, and Church of the Saints, and are not degenerated in any particular of Faith, Doctrine, nor Practise, from the Life, and Power, and Government, and Spirit which was among the true Church, and in the Apostles: These things, with others

the like, have we heard of you, and concerning you, by many: And now, because the Lord hath put it into our hearts, to have controverſie with you, and to ſeek out perfectly your original, and to juſtifie you, or condemn you accordingly; and having the certain infallible Spirit of the Lord God to try all things, we are purpoſed in the Lord to viſit you, and to examine to the foundation your riſe; and firſt beginning from whence you come by deſcent, and what you truly are in your preſent eſtate, and whether you be indeed the true Church, and have the true Spirit, or whether you are otherwiſe, that all the world may be ſatisfied, and more perfectly know the full truth concerning the Church of *Rome*; and your ſeed and root we will examine, and your birth and original we will ſearch out, and your faith, and worſhip, and whole Religion we will lay to the line of true judgement, to juſtifie you, or condemn you eternally; for the Saints ſhall judge the world, and your garments ſhall be ſtripped off, and your ſecrets diſcovered, and your whole body and members made fully manifeſt, that the very truth of all things may appear, and be imbraced, and the whoredomes of all the earth may be laid open, that the Juſt and the Innocent, that hath long laid groaning in great captivity, may be delivered from under all bonds of oppreſſions, whoredoms, and iniquities; and this will the eternal God by us ſpeedily bring to paſſe amonſt you.

Wherefore thou Pope, greatly admired, and highly exalted, and to all thy Cardinals, Friers, Jeſuits, and Prieſts, and all other Officers under thee, I am moved of the Lord God of heaven and earth, (who is the only Holineſs, and higheſt of all) by this Meſſage to viſit you, requiring you, and charging you, in the Name and Authoritie of the Dreadful and Mightie God, before whom all men and Nations are as nothing in compariſon, but may be turned at his pleaſure, & daſhed to pieces by his mightie hand, and unto whom all the ſons of *Adam* in all the world, muſt render an account; & as you will anſwer it to him in his dreadful day of judgement & vengeance,

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and as you love and will obey your God and Christ, whom you profesſe and ſerve; and as you would honour your God, and bring people to your way, and worſhip, and religion, upon theſe engagements, and by the authoritie of the Almightie, I lay it upon you to anſwer, and to return your knowledge and opinions to the particulars following, which I am moved to querie and demand of you, that your doctrines, practiſes, and worſhips, and whole religion, in every part thereof, may be veiwed, and examined, and meaſured, according to the Saints and Apoſtles writings, and may thereby be cleared, or otherwiſe reproved and condemned: And if your profeſſion and practiſes in religion be ſprung from the true grounds, and true Spirit, and your Church be indeed the true Church, that can prove her pedigree truly deſcended from the Church of Chriſt, before the Apoſtacie, and clear her ſelf from all degeneration in every degree, and that ſhe is perfect in the faith, and worſhip, and practiſes of the holy Church and Apoſtles of old; then ſhall all that love God, and fear him, and hopes for life eternal, ſeparate themſelves from all Sects, and Apoſtates, ſeparated from you, and come in, and return again to you, as to a faithful Mother, and joyn with you in all things; and adde themſelves to your church only, and renounce and denie all the contrarie, that is not of you; and ſo ſhall your names and honour be increaſed through all the earth. But and if after lawful trial, and juſt examination, and ſearching out the matter, it be proved againſt you, that you are degenerated from what the true Church and Apoſtles were, and are not builded upon Chriſt the true Rock and foundation, but diverted from the Power, Life, and Spirit, and true Religion which the Apoſtles were in; and that your church is not the true church, but a falſe Sect, and your original cannot be fetch'd from the Apoſtles, but is of a latter and more corrupted race; then ſhall you denie all your religion, and church, and renounce your profeſſion and practiſes, and come to them, and joyn with them, that

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can prove their church to be the true Church, and can teach their originall from the Spirit of the Apostles, and that is builded upon Christ the everlasting foundation (whoever this shall be proved to be) wherefore appear and come forth to trial upon this condition, joyn issue with us, and answer these things in plainesse, and let us know your judgements, that a return you may receive.

First, Whether your are indeed the only true Church of Christ, his body, of his flesh, and of his bones, called, and gathered, and united by the eternal Spirit of Jesus, perfect in the Faith of Christ, perfect in Doctrine, and perfect in Worship, as were the Churches of Christ in the daies of the Apostles? and whether the eternal Spirit dwell in every particular member of your church, and do lead each one of you into all truth, insomuch that you need now no man to teach any one of you, but as that same spirit that dwels in you? answer me plainly, yea, or nay.

2. Whether are you not in any particular of your faith, doctrines, practises, and worships, in any degree degenerated, nor deviated from what the faith, doctrine, practise & worship were that the true Church were in in the daies of the Apostles? and whether will you admit of trial in all things you profess and practise, by the Scriptures, the writings of the Saints, yea, or nay?

3. Whether your church of *Rome* do receive the pouring down of the Spirit upon sons and daughters immediately, and every member receive the holy Ghost, and is filled therewith, and baptized therewith, as in the true church? *Acts* 2. and whether you have received the holy Ghost, and everlasting Comforter immediately, as did the true church in the daies of the Apostles? Answer me these things in the truth of your hearts, that you may be owned or denied.

4. Whether the faith you profess have perfectly purified your hearts from all sin, and hath given you victorie over the world, that now the body of sin is put off, and you are free from sin, and doth not commit sin? but are

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every member of you without ſpot, and wrinkle, and cleanſed from all unrighteouſneſs, being the ſervants of righteouſneſs, and not of ſin? and whether you believe this condition to be attainable in this life upon earth, and to be injoyed and waited for, yea or nay?

5. What is your ground of ſprinkling Infants with water, and whether he that firſt inſtituted it had the gift of the eternal Spirit, and was led thereby? for we know it was firſt ordained at *Rome* in your church, and all the *Proteſtants* received it from you, who are not able to give us a ſufficient reaſon thereof; but we are not ſatisfied therein, therefore tell us, whether are people thereby made members of the bodie of Chriſt, and baptized into his true Church? and is it a perfect ſeal and ſign of the new birth, and regeneration, as is profeſſed? and doth that give all children that are ſprinkled a right to the Kingdom of God, and to be members of the Church of Chriſt? and ſatisfie us plainly, is the ſprinkling of an Infant (never having heard the Goſpel, but while unconverted and unchanged in nature) the true baptiſm into the true Faith of Chriſt, as it is profeſſed? Anſwer me plainly, yea or nay.

6. Whether the bodie and bloud of Chriſt, that is meat indeed, and drink indeed, be carnal and viſible things, to be ſeen, felt, and known viſiblie and carnallie? and whether bread and wine, (that is mortall, and will corrupt,) be the very body and the very bloud of Chriſt Jeſus? and whether Chriſt hath any other bodie and bloud, to be known in any other way or manner then what is profeſſed to be viſiblie and carnallie known by you? and is that bread after conſecration the verie expreſſe Image of the Father, and was with the Father before the world began? elſe it is not the bodie of Chriſt, anſwer me plainlie.

7. Again, we are not ſatisfied concerning your burning, and torturing, and impriſoning, in cruel Iquſitions, and Goals, ſuch as diſſenteth from you, and cannot believe in your church, which ye call hereticks; whether is

not this done by your church, or any member thereof? and do you justifie the doing of it by the authoritie of your church? and we demand of you to give us example for such practises in Scripture, ever practised by the Apostles or true Church, or any member thereof, to burn, or kill, or imprison such as would not own them, and were heretieks? otherwise we must condemn it, and judge you eternally for it; and whether such practises done at *Rome* and in her dominions, be not murder, and crueltie, and tyrannie, and shedding of innocent bloud, and of the devil the wicked one? answer me plainly, and satisfie us herein, that we may know how to deal with you in controversie.

8. Again, we are not satisfied concerning the abundance of Images of the Saints, set up, and bowed to among you, and your praying before them, and to the Saints, and by beads, and in set forms, such things you practise; and also your keeping and setting apart the Saints daies, and your holy daies, and eating with respect to daies, denying of flesh such and such daies, and observing of daies, and meats, and drinks, and fasting in your own wils, and your Nunneries, and keeping men and women one from another in secret houses; whether are these things commanded and required of the Lord from you? and we charge you to give us some example, that ever the true Church practised such things? otherwise if you do not, nor cannot prove these your practises from the Scriptures, and example of the Apostles before you, we must deny you, and condemn your practises for ever, and cannot believe, that your church is the true church, nor you lawful successors of the holy Apostles.

9. What you believe concerning the reign and government of Christ and his coming? is he, his reign and government visible, and of this world, or invisible, and from heaven? and whether liars, whoremongers, adulterers, drunkards, man-slayers, and contentious men, or any that lives in any sin or transgression, in the first nature, be of the kingdome and government of Jesus, or

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hath any part or portion therein, in time to come for ever? and how may ſuch ever have part therein, and give us your knowledge in theſe things; and alſo what you hold and profeſs concerning Election and Reprobation, that we may know whether your knowledge and faith be ſound and perfect in theſe things, and to be imbraced, or condemned and denied.

10. What is the Man-child that hath been caught up to God? and what is the reaſon of his being caught up? and what is the Woman that fled into the wilderneſſe? and what is the cauſe of her ſo flying? and when is the the time (is it come, or to come, that the Man-child hath been caught up, & the woman fled, & that the man-child ſhall come down again, & the Woman again return? and what is that Beaſt the firſt and the ſecond, and is his kingdom come, or yet to come, who reigned over the Kings of the earth, and cauſed all both ſmall and great to worſhip him, and killed the Saints, and overcome them, that would not worſhip him, and made war againſt the Lamb, and perſecuted the Womans ſeed? and when is it that the world wondered after the Beaſt; is it come, or to come? anſwer theſe things in plainneſs, we demand of you.

11. What and who is that great Whore that ſits upon many waters, with whom the Kings of the earth commits fornications, and who hath made Nations drunk with the wine of her fornications, and who hath reigned over the Kings and dominions of the earth? and is that Whore come, or yet to come? and whether is your church [illegible] every whit free from the fornications of that Whore? and will you admit of lawful trial by your fruits and works, and ſuffer judgement accordingly? and whether the whole church of *Rome*, or any part of her dominions, be the multitudes, peoples, and nations, and tongues, the waters, on which the Whore ſits? and whether your church be wholly free from that Woman, which have drunk the blood of Saints, and of the Martyrs of Jeſus? and ſhew us plainly who that Whore is, if you can, and what is her fleſh, and the fire that muſt burn it?

12. Whether are the false prophets and deceivers come, or to come, which Christ said should come? if you say, they are come, when did they come? and who are they? and how may they be known? and what was their first original? and out of what doth all false prophets and false prophecies come? is the church of *Rome* clear of all the false prophets? and whether is your ministrie in the verie same power, spirit, and authoritie which the Apostles were in? is its call and ordination the verie same? is its maintenance and practice the verie same? and its fruits, effects, and end the verie same, or some other? let us know from you, that we may lay you to the line of true judgement, for all people and nations to behold.

And come friends, let us reason a little with you further; we are not satisfied, that the Bishop of *Rome* is true and lawful succeſſor of the Apostle *Peter*; had *Peter* a triple crown, and did Kings bow and kneel to him? and had *Peter* such large revenues and money out of the Nations as the Pope hath? did *Peter* sell pardons for money, or did any buy religion of him? and did *Peter* at all rule over mens consciences? and was *Peter* named holinesse? we demand of you to prove rightlie and trulie, that the Pope doth succeed *Peter* in the same Spirit, in the same power, and in the same conversation: and that his call to overseethe church be justlie the same as *Peters* was, and that he execute it perfectlie as *Peter* did: Also answer us plainlie, what is the seed of the Woman, and what is the head of the Serpent? and is his head bruised yea or nay? and what is the Devil, and what is his beginning, and what is the kingdom that he is Ruler of? and how is his kingdom to be destroyed? and what is the flesh of Christ, and his bloud, which was before *Abraham*? and how is Christ made under the Law? answer me these things: And what is the death that hath reigned over all? and what is the power thereof and what is the fruits of that death? and when must that death be destroyed? and is it destroyed among you? and what was man in his creation of the dust of the ground? and what was he that was the

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verie Image of God male and female, before *Adam* was formed of the duſt of the ground, or *Eve* taken out of him? declare theſe things plainlie if you can and what is the firſt tranſgreſſion & the curſe? & whether any can be made free from the curſe upon the earth, yea or nay? and what is the Kindom of heaven that is like a little leaven, and that is like a net caſt into the ſea? and what is that which muſt be leavened? and what is that good fiſh that muſt be gathered into veſſels, & that bad that muſt be caſt away? & how doth the Kingdom of heaven bring the bad out of the waters to the ſhore? and why is it, and wherefore, and what is the reaſon, that none can enter the Kingdom of God, nor ſee it, but ſuch as are born again? and how is a man born again? and what is that mothers womb, that *Job* & all mankind came out of naked, and that muſt return thither again naked? and what are the the fig-leaves that hath covered in tranſgreſſion? and what is the covering of the Spirit? and what muſt be covered, and what not? and why is it, and how comes it to paſſe, that one and the ſame thing is ſin, & wickedneſs acted by one and the ſame thing, good and juſt acted by another? Theſe things anſwer to us plainlie, & alſo prove all your practiſes and profeſſion by plain Scripture, and give us example from *Peter* and the true Churches, that he and they practiſed the ſame things which the Pope and you do, if you would have any to own you, otherwiſe if you do not, or cannot ſatisfie all people in theſe particulars by the Scriptures, then forſake your Religion, and renounce your Church, and confeſs your ſelves to be deceivers of the world, and to be deceived, for God will rear your garments, and marre your beautie, and ſtain your crowns, and uncover your nakedneſs, and ſubdue your power, and ſlay your ſtrength, and pull down your ſtrong holds, and the dread of the Almightie will come over you.

And come friends, anſwer me, is the light by which you walk everlaſting? and is the day dawned, and the Sun riſen, that never goeth down? and have you ſeen the ſigns of the coming of the Son of man? and what are the

ſigns of his coming? and what is that Sun that muſt be turned into darkneſs? and what is that Moon that muſt be turned into bloud? and what are the keepers of the houſe that muſt tremble; and do you own quaking and trembling at the Word of the Lord? and did you ever quake and tremble, or is there ſuch a thing in your church? and what is that part in man that muſt tremble? is it not that part in man that the devil enters into? anſwer theſe things: and what is that mother of harlots? and where is ſhe that hath been drunk with the bloud of the Saints? and what is the myſterie of her, declare it if you can? and what is her garments? and who are her children? and of what nature are they? and how may they be known? and come friends anſwer us, have you ſeen God face to face, as did *Jacob* and *Abraham*? and have you ſeen his Shape perfectlie? give us a deſcription of him if you have: and doth not all thoſe that be of the ſeed of *Abraham* hear Gods voice, and ſee his ſhape? and are any of *Abraham*, but who are come out of the world, and have denied it, and bares the daily croſſe of Chriſt, which mortifies to the world? and doth your wooden croſſes, and ſtone croſſes, in your towns, & highwaies, & in your houſes, & crucifixes in your breaſts, crucifie you to the world, and mortifie you? or are you not ſuch as have the form of a croſſe of Chriſt, but wants the power? and what is the difference between all your Images and the Images the Prophets declared againſt? and what life is there in the Image of *Chriſt* or *Mary*, painted or graven in wood or ſtone? are your ſoules refreſhed thereby? and is not that all the unitie you have with Chriſt? and is that unitie and fellowſhip you have with Chriſt, the ſame that they had, that had unitie and fellowſhip with the Father, and with the Son? and have you unitie with the Son, and with the Father, as the true Church had? tell us plainlie; and what is Antichriſt? and where is his reigning at this day? and what is his marks and ſigns? and what is the marks of the Beaſt, that every one received in their foreheads, and in their hands? and what is his power, by which he cauſeth every one to wor-

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ſhip him? and is the church of *Rome* whollie free from that, from cauſing and compelling people to be of your Religion, and come to your worſhip by your fire and faggots, and inquiſitions? make it us plain that this is not the beaſts power, for we have a jealouſie, at leaſt, it is not the power of God, that was among the Apoſtles; and why do you kill creatures? did Chriſt or the Apoſtles kill creatures that were not of their Religion? doth not this ſhew that you want the Power and Spirit of God among you, and the ſpiritual weapon that beats down the ſtrong holds? we cannot believe that you have the ſpiritual weapons, which the Apoſtles had, except you make it appear to us; and can any be converted to the true Church, but by the immediate work and Spirit of God? and they that have that, need not be aſhamed; but then why are ſome of your miniſters creeping up and down the Nations in holes, and dare not be ſeen, but lies many years together undiſcovered, not daring to preach their Goſpel, and diſcover their minds? did ever the Apoſtles thus? and is not this a ſign that they have not the power of God to carry them through, but runs into holes and corners for fear of their lives? is this the way of the true Miniſters of Chriſt? and what is the Lambs Wife? and what is her adorning, and her beautie? and are you the Lambs Wife, and are married to him for ever? hath every member of your church the witneſs thereof? and anſwer us, doth natural learning make a Miniſter of Chriſt, or was the Apoſtles made Miniſters thereby? and can a man learn the Miniſtrie naturally, as he learns a trade? and is the preaching of the Goſpel a trade? or is it not the gift of God? and can it be bought and ſold? and what is eternal life? and how is it received? and hath any that hope but them whoſe hearts are puriſied? and muſt not everie ones heart be purified before they ſee God, who is pure? and how comes man to be a Reprobate? and how comes man to be a Son of God again? and what is the way and meanes of life eternal? is it carnal and vifible things, and Ordinances? is it the doing and performing of ſomething

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by the creature, or by the revelation of ſomething in the creature? and muſt not Chriſt be revealed in every particular? and is not that the true bread of life? and is there any other bread that is eternal, but Chriſt, which the mortal eye cannot ſee? and we are very doubtful, that bread and wine after conſecration, is not the very bodie and bloud of Chriſt; and except you can prove to us by plain Scripture, and give us ſound reaſons to demonſtrate things, we muſt judge you, and ſhew your folly to the whole world: and why do you pray for the dead, is that available? ſhall not they receive according to their works that they have done? give us example, that ever the Apoſtles did ſo, or elſe we will ſay, you are blind and in the dark? and tell us plainly, what error is, and what ſchiſm is? and what is the eye that the god of the world hath blinded? and what is the eye that ſees God, is it mortal or eternal? Anſwer us theſe things in plainneſſe, that we may know how to return in controverſie with you, for the Lord God is riſen, that will break in pieces and confound all the world.

And come friends, give us your anſwer, are you of *Abrahams* ſeed, that was the friend of God, that had not a foot of ground, but forſook his place and kindred? are you of that birth that hath no father upon earth? and are you heirs of Gods promiſe? and have you made your calling and election ſure? and is the ſeed come out of *Egypts* bonds? and is all *Egypts* bonds broken yet? and what is the bondage of *Egypt*? and was not tranſgreſſion the reaſon of it? and what is *Pharaoh*, out of what root did he ſpring, and whoſe ſeed is he? and is not the hard heart of *Pharaoh* killers and murderers? are not ſuch of *Pharaoh*? and tell us plainly, are you redeemed from *Pharaoh*? or you are ſuch as oppreſſeth the ſeed as *Pharaoh* did? and tell us, who was the inventer of all your Images, and who was the former of all your graven Images? are not th y all invented and come up ſince the Apoſtles daies, which ye have ſet up? and what is Purgatorie? and from what had it its riſe and original? and what ground have you

out

out of Scripture for such a doctrine? and what is the rule of faith? and what is faith? and what doth it give victorie over? and what doth it overcome? and what is the vail that hath been spread over all Nations? and what is the Mountain of the house of God? and what are those mountains the wicked shall seek to cover themselves under? and what are those mountains that people expect salvation from in vain? and did not *John* come to throw down the mountains? and what are the mountains that he came to throw down? and what is the valley he came to raise up? answer us, and what is the sword of the Spirit? and whether have ye the sword of the Spirit, and the spiritual Armor? and what, is your church defended and upheld by spiritual weapons, or carnal? is not your Goals carnal weapons, and your inquisitions, and your killing people about Religion, are not all these carnal weapons? and had ever the Church of Christ such weapons? answer me plainlie; and do you not expect the Lord will suddenlie plead with you? and are not ye them that put off the day of the Lord, and causeth the seat of violence to come neer? and are not ye them that have eyes but see not, ears and hear not, hearts and understand not? and is not your eye blind, that should see Gods presence, and your ears stopped that should hear his voyce? and have you heard his voice, and seen his shape? if you have, what is he like? answer us; and what is his Word, and where doth it dwell in your hearts, or is it without you? and can any thing without you purifie you, and take away sin out of your hearts? and must not Christ be within? and what is the fruits, and signs, and marks of a Saint? and why do you go pilgrims to visit dead bones, what is the reason of it, and who was the first that instituted it? and what is the meaning of your holy water? give us Scripture for all these practises, or else the power of the Lord will tear you to pieces, and lay open your foundation, and none that love God can joyn unto you; and can any of you pardon sin trulie, that it shall never more be remembred? and is not your sins remembred with the

light in your consciences some time? and is there not a light in your consciences that doth convince you? tell me plainlie; and whether do you own that Christ hath lightened everie one that comes into the world? and what is the light? and do you know Christ as he was before *Abraham*? and have you seen his day as *Abraham* did? and what is the day of Christ, doth the carnal eye see it? give us your knowledge and your judgement in all these things, and lay down your principles at full, and prove by the Scriptures what you hold and profess, if you would have any to turn to your Religion, otherwise renounce your church, and come out of *Babylon*: what is *Babylon*, and the Mother of Harlots? and what is spiritual *Egypt* and *Sodom* where Christ is crucified? and what is the Whore? and what is her flesh, that hath stained the earth? and what is the fire that must consume her flesh? manie are jealous concerning you, that you are not the true Church, but that you have drunken of the Whores cup, who hath made all Nations drunk: and if that time be come, that she have made all Nations drunk, then how can you clear your selves, being nations and multitudes of people? To all these things I expect your speedie answer: and what is the death that hath raigned over all? and how is man recovered out of it, and when? and what is the gates of hell? and what is the Rock that they cannot prevail against? and whether your church may never be prevailed against? and whether it be not your inquisitions, stakes, and faggots, and killing people, that doth principally defend your church? and if you should cease your inquisitions, and killing those you call Heriticks, whether would not you be prevailed against by many other Sects? lay away your persecution of people that you call Heriticks, and do not deal with them after the manner which you have done, by inquisitions and such like, and onlie by sound arguments, and the power of the Spirit, defend your religion. And dare you suffer a certain number of us to come among you and preach what we hold, and a certain number of you shall freelie

come

come among us, and freelie preach what you hold, without perſecution or anie violence, as we would expect and have the ſame from you, engage man for man with us, and do no otherwiſe deal with ours, then we deal with yours; and take the free libertie to deal with our men as we deal with your men, but no otherwiſe, and let each of the meſſengers preach and hold forth what they would have, and what they reallie hold and believe, and convert the moſt either of them can to their own Religion, and then let all the world ſee which hath the Power and Spirit of God with them, and whether your Miniſters or our Miniſters do turn the more people from you to us, or from us to you; and ſend your anſwer, whether you will agree to the premiſes: and if you do, ſend your Meſſengers when you pleaſe, and we will engage in the Lord, their perſons ſhall not be harmed, but if they were, then take man for man, life for life, of our men ſent to you, and let that God be the true God, that appears in moſt power and authoritie; and let him be worſhipped for ever, whoſe power converts the moſt to the knowledge of him out of wickedneſs, and let that Church be the true Church, which cannot be overcome; and if you are willing to be made manifeſt, join iſſue with us in this buſineſs, and propound your own time when the men ſhall return, whether the continuance of the matter be for daies, months, or years, and let each of the men return without harm of perſon; and this will be a way tridie to try and make manifeſt all things, to all the world; and whether you or we be in the right way, & of the right Church; & uſe you no weapon againſt us, but the ſoundeſt arguments you can, by words according to the Scriptures, and the ſame weapons we will uſe againſt you, and no other, but the authoritie of the Spirit of God, and arguments thereby, which ſhall be according to the Scriptures, the Apoſtles writings, and the teſtimonie of the true Church; and thereby in the ſight of the whole world, let your church, and faith, and principles, and practiſes, and worſhips be tried; and our

church, faith, doctrines, and worships, and practises, and whether it be yours or ours that do overcome, or are overcome, let that deside the controversie; and whether it be you or we that are sooneſt overcome, and that prevail the one against the other in this trial, and in theſe proceedings; and that which is overcome and prevailed against, is not the true Church, against which nothing can prevail, no not the gates of hell; and whether your Church or ours cannot be prevailed against by the other, let that be the true Church, for that which is prevailed against is not the true Church, and whether it be you or we that are elected, and of the election, which cannot be deceived; if we be not elected, and you deceivers, then it is possible you may deceive us, but if we prove that we be in the election, then you cannot deceive us; and if we be in the truth, and of the true Church, then it will be happineſs for you to be converted and turned to us; come to the trial as soon as you will, and if you be in the election you need not be afraid to be deceived by any, for the elect cannot be deceived, whoever that be, whether your Church or our Church be the true Church, and in the election; and if your Miniſters among us do preach the same things, and by the same spirit, and hold forth the very same faith, principles, worship, and practises, which we do, and are of, and it be proved they are of the same spirit and principles we are of, agreeing in all things, then we will own them to be Christs Miniſters, and if our Miniſters among you do hold forth that true faith, and principles, and practises, and worship, and by the same spirit as Christ and his Apoſtles did, and prove what they say by the Scriptures, then shall you receive them as the Miniſters of Christ, and renounce all that you hold and profeſs, contrarie to what they hold and preach among you, and hereby things may come to a fair triall, and the naked truth may be made manifeſt, whether your Church or our Church be the true Church of Christ, trulie-deſcended from the Church of the Saints of old, and whether your Miniſters or our Miniſters

ſters, be the lawful ſucceſſors of the Apoſtles; and we would willinglie come to deal with you upon theſe termes, that it may be manifeſt who it is that are of the true ſeed, and who it is that are of the election that cannot be deceived; and we have manie more things to write unto you, and to querie of you, and to demand, when we receive your anſwer, and if you give us ground to accuſe you in your return, we will threſh you, and lay it to your charge, by the authoritie and ſpirit of the Lord; and if you anſwer us plainlie, we ſhall more perfectlie know what to do.

To the Pope.

THou mountain, hear the Word of the Lord God; thus ſaith the Lord God unto thee, I will lay thee low, I will break thee down, I will ſtain the glorie of all fleſh, my ſword ſhall enter into the heart of my enemies, I will ſlay the wicked, and I will cruſh the head of the ungodlie, and I will grind the hard hearts unto pieces, I will come in a day unexpected, I am at the door, behold me, and I will take vengeance without pitie upon all my enemies, my hand ſhall not ſpare, my eye ſhall not pitie, but I will tear and rend, and give unto thee, and unto all mankind, the fruit of your own doings: Innocent bloud cries unto me, that hath been unjuſtlie ſhed, and the righteous ſoul groans under the Altar unto me, and now I am riſen, and I am begun to work in the earth, and I will goe through nations, and tread them down, under my power; I have raiſed a ſeed which ſhall threſh the mountains, and my word is gone forth out of my mouth, which ſhall beat them to duſt; and my power ſhall knock at thy gates, and break down thy ſtrength, and it ſhall prevail againſt thee: Oh thou mountain, whoſe ſeat is high, and whoſe power is great, and who hath been able to make war with thee? thou haſt ſwallowed up the poor and needie, and thou haſt eaten up the innocent as the oxe eateth up graſſe, thou haſt continued for ages, and

thou accounts thy self the most ancient, and thou hath been without fear of any man, and thou hast not regarded the honour of my name, but exalted thy self altogether: But now, saith the Lord, the dread of the Almightie shall come upon thee, and the Majestie of the Lord of hosts shall appear terrible unto thee, and thou shalt know there is a God that can do whatsoever he will, and he will wound the mightie men, and none shall heal them; and he will vex all his enemies in his displeasure, and he will break them, and none shall bind them up; thy glorie, and the glorie of the whole earth, is as grass before the mower, and as the flower of the field that is soon withered; and thy treasure, and the treasure of all Nations, is of no respect unto him, the strength of the whole earth is weakness before him, and the crowns of Princes he accounteth as the dust, he treads over it all, and his everlasting arme reacheth beyond it all, and he is awakened, that will strike thorough kingdoms, and that will stain the glorie of the whole earth; and thou must know his power, and the cup of his wrath is full, of which all nations shall drink, and none shall escape it; prepare thy self, for the anger of the Lord is gone forth, & the Almightie is greived because of the abominations of the earth, and he will cast into the fire, and purge, and purifie, and new mold, and correct, Rulers, Kings, and Peoples, for he hath long been greived, and born the iniquitie of the Nations, but his long suffering is well-nigh finished, for the nations have provoked him to anger, and turned his long-suffering into furie, and he hath put on the garment of vengeance, and the time is at hand, that sorrow shall take hold upon the stout-hearted, when he appears, who hath been pierced, and anguish and pain shall come upon thee, and the world, and the day of trouble, and great distress, ye shall not escape: the rod of his wrath shall smite you, the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it: And although thou art exalted as a God, yet thou shalt be a man and not a God in his hand, that shall slay thee, and although thy seat hath been high, yet it shall be laid low as the ground,

ground, and thy honour shall be laid in the dust, for thou art dust and ashes before the Lord, and thou shalt be no more admired, when destruction shall come upon thee; the Lord hath viewed thy way and path, and they have not been upright before him; he hath entred into the secrets of thine heart, and thine intent hath not been hid from him, and that which hath been done in secret shall now be laid open, and all secret things shall now be brought to light; and all the Churches shall know that he searches the heart, and trieth the reines, who is a God great and mightie, and giveth unto all creatures life and breath, and he will change at his pleasure all the children of men, and bring them to an account before his Judgement-seat; wherefore let all flesh tremble before him, and let all the earth bow before his presence, who changeth, and subdueth, and over-turneth at his pleasure, and brings men to destruction, who hath rebelled against him: Wherefore thou Pope, chief Bishop at *Rome*, this is unto thee from the mouth of the Lord; come down, come down, lay down thy crown, subject thy self, and tremble before the Lord God of vengeance, least he come upon thee and crush thee to pieces, and thou shalt know that this hath the Lord spoken, in the day when the fierie flaming sword, which is alreadie drawn, enters into thy bosome, and smites thy honour and renown: Behold, I have heard the voice of howling and bitter lamentation; I have heard the voice of war and not of peace; I have seen, I have seen, the strong become weak, and the mightie become miserable, and the proud and honorable brought into contempt; yea, I have seen her that hath sat as a Queen, that hath said, she shall never see sorrow; I have seen the losse of children, and widdowhood come upon her, even in one day; I have seen her beautie turned into bitterness; I have seen her honour brought into contempt; I have seen the Whore that hath made all Nations drunk with her fornications, that hath had the golden cup in her hand; I have seen the cup of indignation prepared for her to drink;

and

I have seen her cast upon the bed of never ceasing tor-[illegible] I have seen the Citie that was full of people, that was the glorie of Kingdoms, that made all Nations rich with her traffick and merchandise; I have seen that Citie laid desolate, and disinhabited, and made the sorrow of the whole earth; and I have seen the smoak of her burning ascend for ever; and this is [illegible] shortly come to passe; and if thou hastian [illegible] thou mayest hear; and these [illegible] and they shall not fail; [illegible] Dread, and [illegible] of the Almighty [illegible]

[illegible] is assented to by [illegible] ed by one that hath a Name not seen nor known of the world, but known among men by name of

EDWARD BURROUGH.

[illegible] your answer to me, or any of the People [illegible] called *Quakers*, for me, in *London* from whence this is sent, being written the four and twentieth day of the eighth moneth, 1658.

THE END.

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